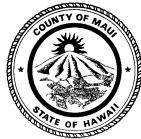


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Vice-Chair
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Director of Council Services
Sandy K. Baz

COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

March 16, 2017

TO: The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: Mike White
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 17, 2017; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1359,
HD 2, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to allow each county to enact and enforce ordinances necessary to prevent, investigate, control, or eradicate invasive species on any public or private premises within the limits of the county.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Environmental protection through the eradication of invasive species is a statewide and intergovernmental effort. The County of Maui understands this partnership and works closely with agencies such as the Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) in the fight against invasive threats to our endangered species, native plants, fragile ecosystems and overall quality of life.
2. I support the amendment specifying that the invasive species to be eradicated shall be identified by the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, which is a current partner of MISC. MISC's ability to implement its programs are hampered by their inability to access private property where invasive species are reported.
3. Providing local authority access to private property, following necessary notice requirements, will help avoid costly and burdensome options, such as utilizing the court system to secure warrants to gain property access. This tool is critical for counties to be true partners in the fight against invasive species and fulfilling the broader goal of preserving the environment for future generations

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.